



Good practice in integrating gender into national adaptation plans

**CARE International submission to the
UNFCCC Adaptation Committee and the National Adaptation Plans Task Force**

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Introduction

For the purpose of this submission, we chose to focus on compiling recent country-level information of CARE's engagement in gender-related discussions in national adaptation planning. This is further complemented by findings from a very recent report on gender-transformative adaptation in agriculture. Links to relevant resources are provided in the text.

1. What are good examples of lessons learned and best practices in prioritizing/incorporating gender in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans in your country or constituency?

In Guatemala, CARE has contributed to promoting at the national level the inclusion of the gender approach in initiatives of sustainable agriculture adaptable to climate change, providing tools of "Equality House Within", for elaboration the guide "Steps for Sustainable Agriculture" in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture - CIAT. care.org.gt/index.php/recursos/documentos?start=20

Among nine thematic and cross cutting sectors¹ of Nepal's National Adaptation Plan², Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is recognized as one of the cross cutting sector besides governance and livelihood. Multi-stakeholder engagement in the NAP formulation was one of the most critical elements in the process whereby government and non-governmental organizations were involved in different thematic and cross cutting sectors. CARE Nepal supported the Stakeholder engagement

¹ 1) Agriculture and Food Security (Nutrition), 2) Climate Induced Disasters, 3) Forest and Biodiversity, 4) Public health (WASH), 5) Tourism, Natural and Cultural Heritage, 6) Urban Settlements and Infrastructures, 7) Water Resources and Energy, 8) Gender Equality and Social Inclusion 9) Livelihoods and Governance

² <http://napnepal.gov.np/>

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process through conducting regional consultation workshops to incorporate the voices of women, Dalits and vulnerable communities at regional level in National Adaptation Plan.

In Indonesia, the National Adaptation Plan is being developed by inter-ministerial agencies lead by the National Development Plan Agency (BAPPENAS). The document is the reference and guidelines for the work and action plan on adaptation whereby the government has highlighted three points related to gender:

- The action plan on 'National Adaptation' has to consider the needs, aspiration, potential and experience of men and women.
- In the document, there are four specific action plans on the programme of 'Village based Food security with mainstreaming on gender', information system on disaster management, women empowerment on the tribes groups, improvement on national development policy which consider gender. In the column of indicators, all programmes have included women participation in village groups and activities on women empowerment.
- Gender considerations have been integrated in all the key priority areas of Indonesia National Adaptation Plan i.e. economic resilience, life system (public health, spatial planning, special regions)

Public consultation with all the key stakeholders including the Civil Society and political goodwill has been instrumental in the successful formulation and inclusion of gender in the Indonesia NAP.

CARE international in Uganda has contributed to the integration of gender into the National Climate Smart Agriculture good practice guide or catalogue. This was done in collaboration with the INGO ACSA Alliance including OXFAM, CARE, CRS and World Vision. Gender sensitive models and approaches used by CARE and other stakeholders were included into the National CSA catalogue.

2. How can gender best be incorporated into adaptation action?

CARE International in Guatemala has promoted and is encouraging that women can access government forestry incentives, these government funds represent 1% of the national budget of Guatemala. For example: CARE supported the management of 177 government forestry incentive projects (forest conservation, reforestation, agro forestry) of which 42% are women beneficiaries, who obtained an approximate total income of 67 thousand dollars per year. Income from incentives that women get helps them improve their diet, educate their families and contribute to the conservation of water sources at the community level.

The differential impacts of climate change assessment and Gender and Power Analysis have proven to be helpful to identify adaptation actions which address gender gaps, power dynamics and differential impacts of climate change in Nepal. USAID funded bio-diversity conservation and climate change adaptation project (Hariyo Ban Project³) and Sabal project of CARE Nepal supported the

³ Hariyo Ban Project supported to introduce GESI sensitive, women friendly, climate smart and energy saving technologies to reduce the workload of women, change gender roles and reduce climate vulnerabilities in Nepal

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process of incorporating these adaptation responses into Local Adaptation Plan of Action which has been endorsed by the local government.

In order to ensure package implementation of adaptation plan, CARE Nepal has developed and applied prioritization checklist which includes awareness and capacity building, small infrastructure construction, adaptive livelihoods, GESI and Governance, and review reflection, monitoring and planning. Formation and mobilization of Community learning and Action Center (CLAC) which organized reflective classes for 16 weeks; women and adolescent girls are trained and supported to develop and implement community projects which includes gender and social actions, and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction responses

In Indonesia, CARE, local partners and the village government have worked together to implement a process called 'Council Action Plan for Women' known locally as '*Musrena*'. This is a space for women from different groups in the community to share their concerns, thoughts and ideas on their village development plan with each other and with local policy makers. The *musrena* is a safe space where women feel free to express their experiences and knowledge either in words or pictures. Through this process, women propose a one-year action plan which is based on their experiences and needs. The women's action plan is then integrated into the main village development plan, ensuring gender responsive planning and budgeting at the village and district level. For the local government, *musrena* is an effective way of obtaining useful information related to women's needs in the development planning process. For women, *musrena* is an effective way of increasing their capacity, providing a formal space for women to participate in development planning and ensuring that regional and village development planning meet the practical and strategic needs of women.

CARE International facilitates gender working groups at the district level and provides capacity building in gender issues, to accelerate gender mainstreaming in planning and budgeting in Indonesia. The Ministry of women's empowerment and child protection has also issued general guidelines for gender-responsive climate change adaptation. The guidelines are aimed at (1) to provide direction and improve understanding of gender mainstreaming in relation to climate change adaptation activities in sectoral programs and activities both at the ministry level and government work (2) provide practical direction for cross-sector coordination and integration of adaptation action programs (3) encourage and direct adaptation actions as an effort to integrate gender responsive into development.

A recent report released by CARE in cooperation with WWF, CCAFS, WECF, IFAD, CCAFS FANRPAN, "Gender-Transformative Adaptation - From Good Practice to Better Policy" looks at a range of barriers and strategies to overcome those in the context of adaptation in agriculture. Some of its findings are also relevant to the context of this submission:

"Adaptation can be incremental; making changes in the way people act but maintaining the system, or transformative; serving to fundamentally change system attributes. Gender-transformative approaches create opportunities for individuals to actively challenge existing gender norms, promote positions of social and political influence for women, and address power inequalities between persons of different genders (CARE and FAO 2019). To bring this about, it is critical to address women's agency (capacities, skills, confidence), the relationships of power that affect their choices (particularly household relationships and community groups), and the structures (such as agriculture and market institutions, land policies, social norms) that govern their lives and choices (CARE 2018c)." (CARE et al. 2019: "Gender-Transformative Adaptation - From Good Practice to Better Policy". <https://careclimatechange.org/gender-transformative-adaptation/>)

Key recommendations by the report to policy-makers and donors are:

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1. Recognize and champion the important role of women and men as change agents in agricultural adaptation, rather than reducing their identity to 'vulnerable groups'.
2. Invest in adaptation in agriculture programmes and policies that seek gender-transformative outcomes and insist on regular reporting of progress against specific indicators.
3. Demand and then financially support costed gender-transformative budgets, staffing and performance monitoring frameworks.
4. Invest in applied research to assess the socio-economic impacts of improved women's participation in governance and decision-making processes and of reductions in their labour burden.
5. Support programmes that adopt gender equality and social inclusion strategies through the integration of both community- and ecosystems-based approaches to adaptation.

3. In your experience, what are remaining gaps related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation?

The government of Guatemala has established Gender Units in its Ministries (Agriculture, Environment, Forests and Protected Areas) and some of these institutions have Policies for Gender Equality (PIEG) but does not allocate budget so that these units can promote inclusion of gender in the initiatives of sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, even so, CARE has supported the institution of Disaster Risk Reduction, which considers the climatic risk, in the elaboration of the Monitoring and Evaluation System of the Gender Equality Policy of this institution. This system is helping to measure how they are incorporating gender equality in this institution. CARE plans to replicate this experience in the other institutions or government ministries.

In Vietnam, Gender mainstreaming has begun, but data and integration into climate change policy and practice is incomplete. Gender stereotypes also persist and negatively impact on women's advancement within DRR/resilience building. In addition, awareness and knowledge of Government officers on gender and gender integration is very limited. Gender equality is mainly on points of view, principle of working but there's so far no guidance on how to put it into practice by any sectors or ministries. Gender equality is still not the genuine need and interest of the decision makers of NDC/NAP in Vietnam; and although the policy encourages gender equality, there's no obligation on it including monitoring and reporting on gender progress and there's no budget allocation for gender integration.

In Nepal, due to the lack of clear cut provision to ensure inclusive representation in current institutional mechanism, there is no uniformity in the composition and inclusiveness of LAPA⁴ committees. Resilience monitoring framework is still in the process of development and testing, so it is still not clear how the gender related indicators monitor the incremental changes in capacity building, enabling environment and vulnerability reduction of diverse groups of people.

⁴ Local Adaptation Plans for Action

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The aspect of community participation is often discussed in Indonesia, however there is no climate change policy that implements an ideal participatory approach. The inclusiveness that is currently implemented cannot yet reflect actual participation on the ground.

The gender-transformative adaptation report referred to above identifies a number of gender-related norms, barriers and power imbalances and its impacts, which are relevant to promoting gender-considerations also in adaptation planning.

Agency: Women sometimes lack confidence to haggle at markets or sell farm produce without their husband's permission or presence. Women-headed households have difficulties clearing up after storms and typhoons; cutting or removing trees, repairing roofs of houses, or securing livestock takes scarce time from other farming and household practices. Women's voices in public meetings are often not solicited and women hold fewer leadership positions.

Structures: In many countries, farmers (women and men) are not protected by parental leave legislation or social safety nets. Women have often no choice but to return to work soon after delivery, compromising their health and that of their child. Customary laws for performing certain practices or owning land are often gendered, mostly to the disadvantage of women, that otherwise could enable interchangeable labour division. In many parts of the world, girls' equal opportunities to education are compromised and they are often taken out of school before boys during lean seasons, or during menstruation.

Power relationships: Men who migrate for seasonal labour, may continue to remotely control farm decisions with their remittances. Women have no choices but to stay on the farm (men also may have no choice but to migrate for labour), meaning their own sources of income are limited. Women are often restricted from engaging in local governance, have limited decision-making power and have to defer to male community leaders to make decisions that may affect their lives profoundly.

4. What are useful sources relevant to this topic?



Policy Brief-gender



Community of



TAMD -Integrated



Technical Briefing

equality in CCA and dPractice Guide (Final [district report for Uga Paper Gender in NDC.